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REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding final Office Action mailed October 6, 2003 (Paper No. 10). Claims 1-34 remain pending in the present application. Applicants have amended claims 8, 26 and 34. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and pending claims are respectfully requested.

I. U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/224,065 Should Be Considered

The Office Action indicates that U.S. Provisional Patent Application 60/224,065 as cited in the IDS filed 6/25/03 was not considered because it is not clear that the document provided is the cited provisional patent application “as there are no markings on the document, such as a stamped provisional application serial no., names of the inventors, filing date, etc. clearly showing this document to be provisional patent application 60/224,065.”

Applicants respectfully submit that the document “Design Specifications for an Electric Meter Interface,” created for StatSIGNAL Systems, Inc., and which was included in the Information Disclosure Statement, is the cited provisional patent application. In this regard, Applicants attach to this Response copies of the provisional application filing receipt, the provisional application cover sheet, the document “Design Specifications for an Electric Meter Interface”, and the Notice of Recordation of Assignment of the utility application to StatSIGNAL Systems, Inc. Accordingly, Applicants request that this document be considered.

II. Claims 1-34 Comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.75(a)

The Office Action objects to claims 1-34 “for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention.” Specifically, the

Office Action objects to claim 34 for having the term “the unique identifier” without proper antecedent basis. As indicated above, Applicants have amended claims 34 and 26 in the manner suggested by the Examiner to address the alleged antecedent basis issue. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-34 comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.75 and, therefore, respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

III. Claims 1-5, 9-13, 17-19, 22, 23, 26-30 and 34 Are Patentable Over U.S. Patent No. 6,124,806

Claims 1-5, 9-13, 17-19, 22, 23, 26-30 and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) or §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Cunningham *et al.*, (U.S. Patent No. 6,124,806), hereinafter referred to as *Cunningham*. A proper rejection of a claim under 35 U.S.C. §102 requires that a single prior art reference disclose each element of the claim. *See, e.g., W.L. Gore & Assoc., Inc. v. Garlock, Inc.*, 721 F.2d 1540, 220 USPQ 303, 313 (Fed. Cir. 1983). Thus, every claimed feature/element/limitation must be represented in the applied reference to constitute a proper rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection on the grounds that *Cunningham* does not disclose, teach or suggest all of the claimed elements.

Claim 1

It is alleged in the Office Action that:

As per claim 1, Cunningham *et al.* ‘806 (Abstract, figure 49) disclose ‘a data interface configured....of an electric meter’. Cunningham *et al.* ‘806 (Abstract, figures 21, 49, col. 13 lines 54-56, col. 14 lines 18-22) disclose ‘memory comprising a unique identifier...the electric meter’. Cunningham *et al.* ‘806 (Abstract, figures 20, 21, 30, 49, col. 13 lines 54-56, col. 14 lines 18-22) disclose ‘logic configured to receive the data....the transmit message comprising the unique identifier...the site controller may identify the electric meter...and notify the host computer of the transmit message’. Cunningham *et al.* ‘806

(Abstract, figures 19, 25, 49, col.6 lines 13-17) disclose 'a wireless transceiver configured for communication...and receive messages from the wireless communication network'. Cunningham et al. (Figure 30 – connection to repeaters, figure 31, figure 49 (see telemetry network repeater and master telemetry network repeater), col. 20 lines 4-24) disclose 'logic configured to receive a transmit message...and retransmit the received message' (repeaters have the functionality of receiving transmitted messages from other communication devices and then repeating the message by retransmitting the received message).

Cunningham appears to disclose a wide area remote telemetry system that requires a plurality of sensor interface modules, at least one data collection module and a host module.

Independent claim 1 recites:

1. **A communication device** adapted for use in an automated monitoring system for providing remote monitoring of electricity consumption, the automated monitoring system comprising a site controller in communication with a plurality of electric meters via a wireless communication network and in communication with a host computer via a wide area network, **the communication device** comprising:

a **data interface** configured to receive data related to the electricity consumption of an electric meter;

memory comprising a unique identifier corresponding to the electric meter;

logic configured to receive the data related to the electricity consumption of the electric meter, retrieve the unique identifier corresponding to the electric meter, and generate a transmit message using a predefined communication protocol being implemented by the wireless communication network, the transmit message comprising the unique identifier and the data related to the electricity consumption of the electric meter and configured such that the transmit message may be received by the site controller via the wireless communication network and such that the site controller may identify the electric meter and notify the host computer of the transmit message;

a wireless transceiver configured for communication over the wireless communication network and **configured to provide the transmit message to the wireless communication network and receive messages from the wireless communication network**; and

logic configured to receive a transmit message from another communication device and retransmit the received transmit message.

(*Emphasis added.*) *Cunningham* does not disclose, teach or suggest at least the features emphasized above.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable for at least the reason that Cunningham does not disclose, teach or suggest **a communication device comprising a data interface, configured to receive the data related to the electricity consumption of the electric meter, further configured to provide the transmit message to the wireless communication network and receive messages from the wireless communication network and further configured to receive a transmit message from another communication device and retransmit the received transmit message.** In contrast with Applicants' claim 1, figure 49 cited in the Office Action appears to teach the telemetry interface modules 6318, 6320 as devices distinct from telemetry network repeaters 6328, 6330.

Additionally, in contrast with Applicants' claim 1, figure 30, as cited in the Office Action, appears to teach a data repeater module 2300 as only being capable of connection to a telemetry interface module and repeaters and other telemetry gateways. Also, in contrast with Applicants' claim 1, as cited in the Office Action, the Abstract discloses a "telemetry system which monitors and controls remote devices" where "[t]he system uses a plurality of sensor interface modules which constantly monitor devices for triggering events" and at least one data collection module which gathers, process, stores and transmits information to a host system." Further, cited by the Office Action and contrary to the Applicants' claim 1, *Cunningham*, (e.g. col. 20, lines 4-24) teaches "a data repeater module" having the ability to "transmit and receive signals 2314 to and from repeater modules 2300, data collection modules 110, or a host module 122." *Cunningham* does not, however, teach a device capable of performing the data interface, data transmission and repeater functions.

Neither the cited figures, as described in the reference, nor the Abstract nor the cited language as discussed above describes a single device **comprising a data interface, configured**

to receive the data related to the electricity consumption of the electric meter, further configured to provide the transmit message to the wireless communication network and receive messages from the wireless communication network and configured to receive a transmit message from another communication device and retransmit the received transmit message. Applicants respectfully submit that for at least these reasons, the rejection of claim 1 is improper.

Cunningham fails to disclose, teach or suggest every element of Applicants' claim 1, and thus the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 should be withdrawn. Further, because independent claim 1 is allowable over *Cunningham*, dependent claims 2-8 are allowable for at least the reason that the dependent claims 2-8 contain all elements of their respective independent base claim. See, e.g., *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and claims 1-8 be allowed.

Claim 9

It is alleged in the Office Action that:

As per claim 9, *Cunningham et al.*'806 (Abstract, figure 49) disclose "an electric meter configured...electricity consumption of a load associated with the electric meter" and "a data interface configured...of an electric meter". *Cunningham et al.*'806 (Abstract, figures 21, 49, col. 13 lines 54-56, col. 14 lines 18-22) disclose "memory comprising a unique identifier...the electric meter". *Cunningham et al.*'806 (Abstract, figures 20, 21, 30, 49, col. 13 lines 54-56, col. 14 lines 18-22) disclose "logic configured to receive the data...the transmit message comprising the unique identifier...the site controller may identify the electric meter...and notify the host computer of the transmit message". *Cunningham et al.*'806 (Abstract, figures 19, 25, 49, col. 6 lines 13-17) disclose "a wireless transceiver configured for communication...and receive messages from the wireless communication network". *Cunningham et al.* (Figure 30 – connection to repeaters, figure 31, figure 49 (see telemetry network repeater and master telemetry network repeater), col. 20 lines 4-24) disclose "logic configured to receive a transmit message...and retransmit the received transmit message" (repeaters have the functionality of receiving transmitted

messages from other communication devices and then repeating the message by retransmitting the received message).

Independent claim 9 recites:

9. **A communication device** for measuring electricity consumption, the device adapted for use in an automated monitoring system for providing remote monitoring of electricity consumption, the automated monitoring system comprising a site controller in communication with a plurality of electric meters via a wireless communication network and in communication with a host computer via a wide area network, the communication device comprising:

an electric meter configured for measuring the electricity consumption of a load associated with the electric meter;

a data interface configured to receive data related to the electricity consumption of the electric meter;

memory comprising a unique identifier corresponding to the electric meter;

logic configured to receive the data related to the electricity consumption of the electric meter, retrieve the unique identifier corresponding to the electric meter, and generate a transmit message using a predefined communication protocol being implemented by the wireless communication network, the transmit message comprising the unique identifier and the data related to the electricity consumption of the electric meter and configured such that the transmit message may be received by the site controller via the wireless communication network and such that the site controller may identify the electric meter and notify the host computer of the transmit message;

a wireless transceiver configured for communication over the wireless communication network and **configured to provide the transmit message to the wireless communication network** and receive messages from the wireless communication network; and

logic configured to receive a transmit message from another communication device and retransmit the received transmit message.

(*Emphasis added.*) *Cunningham* does not disclose, teach or suggest at least the features emphasized above.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 9 is allowable for at least the reason that *Cunningham* does not disclose a device comprising at least **an electric meter, a data interface, logic configured to receive the data related to the electricity consumption of the electric meter, configured to provide the transmit message to the wireless communication network**

logic and further configured to receive a transmit message from another communication device and retransmit the received transmit message. In contrast with Applicants' claim 9, figure 49 for example, as cited in the Office Action, appears to teach electricity meter 6304, telemetry interface module 6318, telemetry gateway 6326 and telemetry network repeater 6328 as distinct devices. Additionally, figures 20, 21, 30 and 31, as cited by the Office Action, all fail to disclose a device with the above listed features of claim 9, therefore the rejection of claim 9 is improper.

Cunningham fails to disclose, teach or suggest every element of Applicants' claim 9, and thus the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 should be withdrawn. Further, because independent claim 9 is allowable over *Cunningham*, dependent claims 10-16 are allowable for at least the reason that the dependent claims 10-16 contain all elements of their respective independent base claim. See, e.g., *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and claims 9-16 be allowed.

Claim 17

It is alleged in the Office Action that:

As per claim 17, *Cunningham et al.*'806 (Abstract, figure 49) disclose "a means for receiving data related...of an electric meter". *Cunningham et al.*'806 (Abstract, figures 21, 49, col. 13 lines 54-56, col. 14 lines 18-22) disclose "a means for storing a unique identifier...the electric meter". *Cunningham et al.*'806 (Abstract, figures 20, 21, 30, 49, col. 13 lines 54-56, col. 14 lines 18-22) disclose "a means for receiving the data related to the electricity consumption of the electric meter...the transmit message comprising the unique identifier...such that the site controller...and notify the host computer of the transmit message". *Cunningham et al.*'806 (Abstract, figures 19, 25, 49, col. 6 lines 13-17) disclose "a means for transmitting the transmit message to the wireless communication network". *Cunningham et al.* (Figure 30 – connection to repeaters, figure 31, figure 49 (see telemetry network repeater and master telemetry network repeater), col. 20 lines 4-24) disclose "a means for receiving a transmit message ...and

retransmitting the received transmit message” (repeaters have the functionality of receiving transmitted messages from other communication devices and then repeating the message by retransmitting the received message).

Independent claim 17 recites:

17. **A communication device** adapted for use in an automated monitoring system for providing remote monitoring of electricity consumption, the automated monitoring system comprising a site controller in communication with a plurality of electric meters via a wireless communication network and in communication with a host computer via a wide area network, **the communication device comprising:**

a means for receiving data related to the electricity consumption of an electric meter;

a means for storing a unique identifier corresponding to the electric meter;

a means for receiving the data related to the electricity consumption of the electric meter, retrieving the unique identifier corresponding to the electric meter, and generating a transmit message using a predefined communication protocol being implemented by the wireless communication network, the transmit message comprising the unique identifier and the data related to the electricity consumption of the electric meter and configured such that the transmit message may be received by the site controller via the wireless communication network and such that the site controller may identify the electric meter and notify the host computer of the transmit message;

a means for transmitting the transmit message to the wireless communication network; and

a means for receiving a transmit message from another communication device and retransmitting the received transmit message.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 17 is allowable for at least the reason that *Cunningham* does not disclose **a communication device comprising a means for receiving data related to the electricity consumption of the electric meter, a means for transmitting the transmit message to the wireless communication network, and a means for receiving a transmit message from another communication device and retransmitting the received transmit message.** In contrast with Applicants’ claim 17, figure 49 for example, as cited in the Office Action, appears to teach electricity meter 6304, telemetry interface module 6318, telemetry gateway 6326 and telemetry network repeater 6328 as distinct devices. Additionally,

figures 20, 21, 30 and 31, as cited by the Office Action, all fail to disclose a device with the above listed features of claim 17, therefore the rejection of claim 17 is improper.

Cunningham fails to disclose, teach or suggest every element of Applicants' claim 17, and thus the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 should be withdrawn. Further, because independent claim 17 is allowable over *Cunningham*, dependent claims 18-21 are allowable for at least the reason that the dependent claims 18-21 contain all elements of their respective independent base claim. See, e.g., *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and claims 17-21 be allowed.

Claim 22

It is alleged in the Office Action that:

As per claim 22, Cunningham et al.'806 (Abstract, figure 49) disclose "a means for measuring the electricity consumption of a load" and "a means for receiving data related...of the electric meter". Cunningham et al.'806 (Abstract, figures 21, 49, col. 13 lines 54-56, col. 14 lines 18-22) disclose "a means for storing a unique identifier...the electricity consumption of the load". Cunningham et al. '806 (Abstract, figures 20, 21, 30, 49, col. 13 lines 54-56, col. 14 lines 18-22) disclose "a means for receiving the data related to the electricity consumption of the electric meter...the transmit message comprising the unique identifier...such that the site controller...and notify the host computer of the transmit message". Cunningham et al.'806 (Abstract, figures 19, 25, 49, col. 6 lines 13-17) disclose "a wireless transceiver configured for communication....and receive messages from the wireless communication network". Cunningham et al. (Figure 30 – connection to repeaters, figure 31, figure 49 (see telemetry network repeater and master telemetry network repeater), col. 20 lines 4-24) disclose "a means for receiving a transmit message ...and retransmitting the received transmit message" (repeaters have the functionality of receiving transmitted messages from other communication devices and then repeating the message by retransmitting the received message).

Independent claim 22 recites:

22. **A communication device** for measuring the electricity consumption corresponding to a load associated with an electric meter, the electric meter

adapted for use in an automated monitoring system for providing remote monitoring of electricity consumption, the automated monitoring system comprising a site controller in communication with a plurality of electric meters via a wireless communication network and in communication with a host computer via a wide area network, the **communication device comprising:**

a means for measuring the electricity consumption of a load;

a means for receiving data related to the electricity consumption of the electric meter;

a means for storing a unique identifier corresponding to the means for measuring the electricity consumption of the load;

a means for receiving the data related to the electricity consumption of the electric meter, retrieving the unique identifier corresponding to the electric meter, and generating a transmit message using a predefined communication protocol being implemented by the wireless communication network, the transmit message comprising the unique identifier and the data related to the electricity consumption of the electric meter and configured such that the transmit message may be received by the site controller via the wireless communication network and such that the site controller may identify the electric meter and notify the host computer of the transmit message;

a wireless transceiver configured for communication over the wireless communication network and **configured to provide the transmit message to the wireless communication network and receive messages from the wireless communication network**; and

means for receiving a transmit message from another communication device and retransmitting the received transmit message.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 22 is allowable for at least the reason that *Cunningham* does not disclose **a communication device comprising a means for measuring the electricity consumption, a means for receiving the data related to the electricity consumption of the electric meter, configured to provide the transmit message to the wireless communication network and receive messages from the wireless communication network and means for receiving a transmit message from another communication device and retransmitting the received transmit message.** In contrast with Applicants' claim 22, figure 49 for example, as cited in the Office Action, appears to teach electricity meter 6304, telemetry interface module 6318, telemetry gateway 6326 and telemetry network repeater 6328 as distinct devices. Additionally, figures 20, 21, 30 and 31, as cited by the Office Action, all fail to

disclose a device with the above listed features of claim 22, therefore the rejection of claim 22 is improper.

Cunningham fails to disclose, teach or suggest every element of Applicants' claim 22, and thus the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 should be withdrawn. Further, because independent claim 22 is allowable over *Cunningham*, dependent claims 23-25 are allowable for at least the reason that the dependent claims 23-25 contain all elements of their respective independent base claim. See, e.g., *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and claims 22-25 be allowed.

Claim 26

It is alleged in the Office Action that:

As per claim 26, Cunningham et al.'806 (Abstract, figure 49) disclose "a plurality of electric meters....attached to the electric meter". Cunningham et al. '806 (Abstract, figures 20, 21, 30, 31, 49, col. 13 lines 54-56, col. 14 lines 18-22, col. 20 lines 4-24) disclose "a plurality of communication devices....and generate a transmit message...the transmit message comprising the unique identifier...electricity consumption of the electric meter, each of the plurality of communication devices ...to receive a transmit message ...and retransmit the received transmit message" and the site controller as described in the last 5 lines of the claim.

Independent claim 26, as amended, recites:

26. A system for providing remote monitoring of electricity consumption, the system comprising:

a plurality of electric meters, configured to measure the electricity consumption of a load attached to the electric meter;

a plurality of communication devices having a unique identifier and defining a wireless communication network, **each of the plurality of communication devices** associated with one of the plurality of electric meters and **configured to receive data related to the electricity consumption from the corresponding electric meter and generate a transmit message** using a predefined communication protocol being implemented by the wireless communication network, the transmit message comprising the corresponding

unique identifier and the **data related to the electricity consumption of the corresponding electric meter**, each of the plurality of communication devices further configured to **receive a transmit message from at least one of the other communication devices and retransmit the received transmit message**; and

a site controller configured for communication with the wireless communication network and configured to receive the transmit message from one of the plurality of communication devices, identify the electric meter associated with the transmit message, and provide information related to the transmit message to a wide area network for delivery to a host computer.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 26 is allowable for at least the reason that *Cunningham* does not disclose a system comprising a plurality of communication devices where **each of the plurality of communication devices is configured to receive data related to the electricity consumption from the corresponding electric meter, generate a transmit message of data related to the electricity consumption of the corresponding electric meter and further configured to receive a transmit message from at least one of the other communication devices and retransmit the received transmit message**. In contrast with Applicants' claim 26, as amended, figure 49 for example, as cited in the Office Action, appears to teach electricity meter 6304, telemetry interface module 6318, telemetry gateway 6326 and telemetry network repeater 6328 as distinct devices. Additionally, figures 20, 21, 30 and 31, as cited by the Office Action, all fail to disclose a system with the above listed features of claim 26, as amended, therefore the rejection of claim 26 is improper.

Cunningham fails to disclose, teach or suggest every element of Applicants' claim 26, and thus the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 should be withdrawn. Further, because independent claim 26 is allowable over *Cunningham*, dependent claims 27-33 are allowable for at least the reason that the dependent claims 27-33 contain all elements of their respective independent base claim. See, e.g., *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and claims 26-33 be allowed.

Claim 34

It is alleged in the Office Action that:

As per claim 34, Cunningham et al.'806 (Abstract, figure 49) disclose "a plurality of means for measuring the electricity consumption of an attached load". Cunningham et al. '806 (Abstract, figures 20, 21, 30, 31, 49, col. 13 lines 54-56, col. 14 lines 18-22, col. 20 lines 4-24) disclose "a plurality of communication means....and a means for generating a transmit message...the transmit message comprising the unique identifier....electricity consumption of the electric meter, each of the plurality of communication means...to receive a transmit message...and retransmit the received transmit message" and the means for receiving the transmit message as described in the last 4 lines of the claim.

Independent claim 34, as amended, recites:

34. A system for providing remote monitoring of electricity consumption, the system comprising:

a plurality of means for measuring the electricity consumption of an attached load;

a plurality of communication means having a unique identifier and defining a wireless communication network, **each of the plurality of communication means** associated with one of the plurality of means for measuring the electricity consumption **comprising a means for receiving data related to the electricity consumption from the corresponding electric meter** and a **means for generating a transmit message** using a predefined communication protocol being implemented by the wireless communication network, the transmit message comprising the unique identifier and the data related to the electricity consumption of the corresponding electric meter, each of the plurality of communication means **further configured to receive a transmit message from at least one of the other communication means and retransmit the received transmit message**; and

a means for receiving the transmit message from one of the plurality of communication devices, identifying the electric meter associated with the transmit message, and providing information related to the transmit message to a wide area network for delivery to a host computer.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 34 is allowable for at least the reason that *Cunningham* does not disclose a system comprising **a plurality of communication means** where **each of the plurality of communication means comprises a means for receiving data related**

to the electricity consumption from the corresponding electric meter, means for generating a transmit message and further configured to receive a transmit message from at least one of the other communication means and retransmit the received transmit message. In contrast with Applicants' claim 34, as amended, figure 49 for example, as cited in the Office Action, appears to teach electricity meter 6304, telemetry interface module 6318, telemetry gateway 6326 and telemetry network repeater 6328 as distinct devices. Additionally, figures 20, 21, 30 and 31, as cited by the Office Action, all fail to disclose a system with the above listed features of claim 34, as amended, therefore the rejection of claim 34 is improper.

Cunningham fails to disclose, teach or suggest every element of Applicants' claim 26, and thus the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 should be withdrawn. Further, because independent claim 26 is allowable over *Cunningham*, dependent claims 27-33 are allowable for at least the reason that the dependent claims 27-33 contain all elements of their respective independent base claim. See, e.g., *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and claim 34 be allowed.

IV. Claims 6, 7, 14, 15, 20, 31 and 32 Are Patentable Over U.S. Patent No. 6,124,806 In View Of U.S. Patent No. 6,061,604

Claims 6, 7, 14, 15, 20, 31 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Cunningham* in view of *Russ et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,061,604), hereinafter referred to as *Russ*. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because independent claims 1, 9, 17, 22 and 26 are allowable over *Cunningham*, as discussed above, and the Office Action does not allege that *Russ* discloses, teaches, or suggests the claimed features identified above. In fact, Applicants respectfully submit that *Russ* also fails to teach these

features. Therefore, dependent claims 6, 7, 14, 15, 20, 31 and 32 are allowable because they include the features of the corresponding independent claims, which are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by either *Cunningham* or *Russ*.

Claims 8, 16, 21, 25 and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Cunningham* in view of *Russ*, and further in view of *Cumeralto et al.*, (U.S. 2002/0109607), hereinafter referred to as *Cumeralto*. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because independent claims 1, 9, 17, 22 and 26 are allowable over *Cunningham*, as discussed above, and the Office Action does not allege that *Russ* or *Cumeralto* discloses, teaches, or suggests the claimed features identified above. In fact, Applicants respectfully submit that *Russ* and *Cumeralto* also fail to teach these features. Therefore, dependent claims 8, 16, 21, 25 and 33 are allowable because they include features of the corresponding independent claims, which are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by *Cunningham*, *Russ*, or *Cumeralto*.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 1-34 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



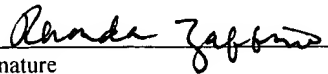
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